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1990/07/25

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APPROVED BY: D:LSEAGLEBURGER
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S/S:RALAMANTIA

EAP:RSOLOMON
EAP/CM:KWIEDEMANN/MMOHR
S/S-O:NMAUGER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 242901

NODIS

DECAPTIONED

FOR AMBASSADOR LILLEY

E.O. 12356: DECL: DADR
TAGS: PREL, CH
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO BEIJING STOPOVER SUGGESTION

REF: BEIJING 22556 ✓

1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.

2. WE AGREE WITH YOU THAT IT IS NOT YET TIME FOR A HIGH LEVEL VISIT ON THE ORDER OF A STOPOVER IN BEIJING BY THE SECRETARY. ALTHOUGH WE MAY WANT TO CONSIDER A VISIT IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE AT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL IN CONNECTION WITH IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS ON CAMBODIA, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE PREMATURE TO RESUME UNDER SECRETARY LEVEL OR HIGHER VISITS.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES YOU ALLUDED
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TO REFTEL, WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT NOW IN THE

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FINAL PHASE OF THE MFN DEBATE AS WE TRY TO SUSTAIN IT ON OUR TERMS RATHER THAN WITH CONDITIONS SUPPORTED BY THOSE WHO OPPOSE OUR CHINA POLICY, WE SEE GOOD REASON TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT GRADUAL PACE TOWARD IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF POSITIVE ACTION BY BOTH SIDES. OUR WARM RECEPTION OF MAYOR ZHU RONGJI, WITH EXPLICIT REFERENCES TO HIS VISIT AS AN IMPORTANT STEP ON THE ROAD BACK TO BETTER RELATIONS, SERVES AS OUR LATEST STEP AND A CLEAR SIGNAL TO BEIJING THAT WE WANT EVENTS TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. AS YOU NOTE REFTEL, HOWEVER, THE SIGNALS EMANATING FROM CHINA ARE MIXED. WE DO NOT WANT TO LIFT OUR SUSPENSION ON HIGH LEVEL VISITS WHILE CHINA REFRAINS FROM TAKING POSITIVE STEPS TO ADVANCE THE RELATIONSHIP. OUR PATIENCE HAS PAID OFF SO FAR; WE SHOULD PERSIST UNTIL THE CHINESE DECIDE THAT THEY ARE ABLE AND WILLING TO MOVE FORWARD. BAKER

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